

Message Text

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PAGE 01 VIENTI 01620 100554Z
ACTION EA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 VO-05 PPT-01 CA-01 IO-13
AID-05 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 SCS-06 OC-06 CCO-00
PC-01 SS-15 NSC-05 PER-01 L-03 H-01 DODE-00 /095 W
-----004432 102153Z /62

R 100400Z DEC 77
FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8790
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMEMBASSY PARIS
AMCONSUL HONG KONG
AMCONSUL UDORN
CINCPAC

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 1620

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1, 4 DIMPTD
TAGS: PDIP PINS ORTR LA
SUBJ: LPDR NEW VISA POLICY AND TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS FOR FOREIGNERS

REF: (A) VIENTIANE 1509, (B) VIENTIANE 1587

1. DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE CONSULAR AFFAIRS SECTION IN THE MFA, KHAMPHOUY SOUKRISAK, TOLD US DECEMBER 9 THAT MFA HAD INSTITUTED A NEW VISA POLICY, REF A. DIPLOMATS LISTED ON THE DIPLOMATIC LIST WOULD, AS BEFORE, BE ISSUED A MULTIPLE ENTRY EXIT VISA GOOD FOR ONE YEAR. ADMINISTRATIVE AND TECHNICAL EXPERTS FROM ALL FOREIGN MISSIONS AND INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS WOULD BE ISSUED VISAS GOOD FOR SIX MONTHS AND THREE ENTRY/EXIT TRIPS. KHAMPHOUY SAID THAT IF FOREIGNERS CARRYING THE LATTER TYPE OF VISA MADE THEIR ALLOTTED THREE TRIPS BEFORE THE VISA EXPIRED THEN THEY COULD APPLY FOR ANOTHER VISA. IT TAKES ABOUT TWO WEEKS FOR THE MFA TO PROCESS ISSUANCE
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PAGE 02 VIENTI 01620 100554Z

OF A VISA.

2. DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER NOUPHAN SITHPASAY TOLD US THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO PROBLEM IN OBTAINING A LAISSEZ-PASSER FOR THE THA DEUA FERRY CROSSING ON THE SAME DAY THAT THE APPLICATION IS SUBMITTED TO THE MFA. HE SAID THAT THE 72 HOURS PRIOR NOTICE REGULATION, REF B, APPLIED

ONLY TO THOSE TRIPS TO THE LAO COUNTRYSIDE BECAUSE THE MFA WOULD HAVE TO GIVE PRIOR NOTIFICATION TO LOCAL OFFICIALS THERE.

3. MFA OFFICIAL IN CONSULAR AFFAIRS SECTION TOLD US DECEMBER 9 THAT IN THE CASE OF A MEDICAL EMERGENCY ON DAYS WHEN THE MFA IS CLOSED, FOREIGNERS COULD CONTACT THE SECURITY GUARD AT THE MFA AND HE WOULD FACILITATE THE APPROVAL OF A LAISSEZ-PASSER TO THE THA DEUA FERRY CROSSING.

4. DIRECTOR OF PROTOCOL KHAMTHAN RATANAVONG STRESSED THE MFA DESIRE TO REMAIN "FLEXIBLE" IN REGARD TO THE LAISSEZ-PASSER REGULATIONS. UNDP EXPERTS AND SHELL FOREIGN EMPLOYEES HAVE ENCOUNTERED NO PROBLEMS IN OBTAINING PERMANENT LAISSEZ-PASSERS FOR TRAVEL TO THEIR PROJECTS AND DEPOT OUTSIDE OF THE POSTED LIMIT.

5. AS FAR AS WE KNOW, NO FOREIGNER HAS ACTUALLY BEEN STOPPED AT A CONTROL POST AND ASKED TO SHOW HIS OR HER LAISSEZ-PASSER SINCE MFA NOTICE OF NEW REGULATIONS WAS DISTRIBUTED DECEMBER 5. THE LAST TIME A FOREIGN RESIDENT REPORTED SEEING A SENTRY AT ANY OF THE FOUR CHECK POSTS WAS DECEMBER 3, TWO DAYS BEFORE THE TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS WERE FORMALLY ANNOUNCED BY CIRCULAR DIPLOMATIC NOTE.

CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 03 VIENTI 01620 100554Z

6. COMMENT: BOTH THE NEW LPDR POLICY TO ISSUE THREE TIME ENTRY/EXIT PER SIX MONTH VISAS TO ALL NON-DIPLOMATIC FOREIGN RESIDENTS AND REQUIREMENT OF LAISSEZ-PASSER WILL INCREASE RED TAPE AND WORKLOAD FOR FOREIGN MISSIONS AND FOR LPDR. ALTHOUGH THE NEW MFA POLICIES WILL COMPLICATE EMBASSY PERSONNEL TRAVEL, THEY APPARENTLY WILL NOT PROHIBIT ANYONE FROM MAKING AS MANY TRIPS THROUGH THADEUA AS EMBASSIES CAN MANAGE TO ORGANIZE. CORCORAN

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, VISAS, TRAVEL CONTROLS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 10-Dec-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977VIENTI01620
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: DC ALSO X1
Executive Order: X4
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770460-0940
Format: TEL
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19771268/aaaacgcf.tel
Line Count: 104
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Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
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